**Clauses**

A **clause** is a group of related words that has both a subject and a predicate.

An **independent clause** presents a complete thought and can stand alone as a sentence.

* **Sparrows make nests in cattle barns.** (Independent clause)

A **dependent clause** (also a **subordinate clause**) does not present a complete thought and cannot stand alone as a sentence.

* Sparrows make nests in cattle barns **because they need to stay warm during the winter.** (Dependent clause)

There are three types of dependent clauses: **adverb clauses, adjective clauses, and noun clauses.**

An **adverb clause** is used like an adverb or modify a verb, an adjective, or an adverb. All adverb clauses begin with a subordinating conjunction.

* **If I study hard,** I will pass.
* I will pass **if I study hard.**

An **adjective clause** is used like an adjective to modify a noun or a pronoun. Adjective clauses begin with relative pronouns.

* Tomorrow’s test, **which covers the entire book**, is half essay and half short answers. (The adjective clause modifies the noun *test*.)

A **noun clause** is used in place of a noun. Noun clauses begin with relative pronouns and can be replaced with *“it”* or *“someone.”*

* However, the teacher said **that the essay questions are based only on the last two chapters.** (The noun clause functions as the direct object)
* **That** **someone took the cookie** is undeniable. (The noun clause functions as the subject.
* I talked to **whoever was on the other line.** (The noun clause functions as the object of the preposition *to*)
* That is **what I want.** (The noun clause functions as the predicate nominative)

Key to determine usage of noun clauses:

Before predicate = subject

After action verb = direct object

After being verb = predicate nominative

After preposition = object of the preposition

**Clauses Worksheet #1**

Directions: Identify the italicized clauses as independent or dependent in the blank provided.

*\_\_\_D\_\_\_\_* 1*. Because Bishop Jean Marie Latour had once lived in the room*, he felt at

home there.

*\_\_\_I\_\_\_\_* 2*. The room had changed remarkably little,* even though many years had

passed.

\_\_\_I\_\_\_\_ 3. The furnishing *that he recalled so well* still stood in the room.

\_\_\_D\_\_\_ 4. The bishop awoke, began to shave, and reflected about the land and *why*

*he felt so content there.*

\_\_\_D\_\_\_\_ 5. The bishop, *who was now an old man,* felt almost like a boy again in his

former surroundings.

\_\_\_\_D\_\_\_ 6. He experienced a feeling of newness and vigor *whenever he breathed the*

*light, dry morning air of New Mexico.*

\_\_\_\_D\_\_\_ 7. The source of the invigorating air was the country around him, *which was*

*still untamed.*

\_\_\_\_D\_\_\_ 8. Other places had once produced this remarkable effect, but *they no longer*

*did.*

\_\_\_\_D\_\_\_ 9. A sense of newness disappeared *after an area was developed.*

\_\_\_\_D\_\_\_ 10. Although progress brought with it many civilized comforts and pleasures, *it*

*also carried a high price.*

\_\_\_\_D\_\_\_ 11. Mahalia Jackson was an African American singer *who became popular*

*worldwide as a performer of gospel music.*

*\_\_\_\_D\_\_\_* 12. *Although she was strongly associated with religious music,* her vocal style

was influenced by jazz.

*\_\_\_\_I\_\_\_* 13. *Jackson grew up in New Orleans,* where she sang in a church choir.

*\_\_\_\_D\_\_\_* 14. *When she was sixteen years old,* Jackson moved to Chicago.

*\_\_\_\_I\_\_\_* 15. *She worked as a maid and a food packager* during the first years that she

lived in the city.